



By the King.

A Proclamation for the restraining of the
Importation of Iron Weyer into this Kingdome,
and for the support of that Manufacture.



Hereas Iron Weyer is a manufacture long practised vvithin this Realme, and by that Trade and Mystery many thousands of Our louing Subjects haue been for a long time well and honestly employed and set on worke; And by meanes thereof, great numbers of expert and skilfull men in that Arte and Science haue been trained vp, who are now destitute of any other profession or meanes whereby to get their livings.

And whereas English weyer, being made of the toughest and best Olmond Iron, (a native Commoditie of this Kingdome) is of much better vse, then that Iron weyer which commeth from forreigne parts, especially for the making of good wooll-Cards, without which no good Cloth can be made: And this hath appeared vnto Us by the Certificates of diuers Clothiers, Card-makers, Card-weyer-drawers, and the Farmors of Our Customes, to whom the examination thereof hath been referred.

And whereas by the weyer-drawers of diuers parts of this Our Kingdome, sundry complaints haue beene made vnto Us, that by reason of the great quantities of forreigne Iron weyer lately imported into this Our Realme of England, (whereof also a great part is falsly and deceitfully made and wrought) Our sayd pooze Subjects who make Iron weyer cannot be set on worke in their Vocations of weyer-making and weyer-drawing, nor are able to continue in the exercise of their sayd Trades, whereby so commendable and profitable an Arte is like wholly to be lost in this our Kingdome, and the makers of wooll-Cards are much deceived by that forreigne weyer; and they who vse those Cards much moze: whereby great preiudice will arise to Us and Our people, and to the whole Trade of Clothing within this Realme, except some speedy course be taken for redresse of so great an inconuenience.

Wee well Weighing the danger and preiudice that may happen to this Our Kingdome, by being serued onely from forreigne parts, with a Commoditie of so great necessity, and continuall vse as weyer is, either in time of warre, when little or none can be imported, or else when forreigne parts shall finde other Markets or Vents for that Commoditie, or when at their owne pleasures they may rayse their prices vpon Us, or serue Us, with false and vnseruice-

able wayer, which would tend much to the dishonour of this Our Nation, and disadvantage of Us and Our loving Subjects.

And finding that sundry good Lawes and Statutes haue formerly been made, prohibiting the Importation of forreigne Wool-cards, and of the said forreigne Iron wayer, and diuers other Manufactures made of wayer, for the better cherishing & encouraging of so profitable and necessarie a Manufacture within this Kingdome, but that the execution of those good Lawes hath of late bene much neglected, wee taking these things into Our Princely consideration, by the aduice of Our Pruy Councell, haue thought fit as well to prohibite the Importation of forreigne Iron wayer, and Cards made of forreigne wayer, and of Hookees and Eyes, and other Manufactures made of Iron wayer onely, as to prouide that all Cards made within these Our Kingdomes and Dominions, be well and substantially made, without any fraud or deceit: Doe therefore hereby straitly Charge and Command all and singular person and persons whatsoeuer, aswell Our owne naturall borne Subjects, as Denizens and Strangers, that none of them, nor any other person or persons whatsoeuer, doe at any time or times hereafter attempt or presume to bring, or cause to bee brought into these Our Realmes of England or Ireland, or any other Our Dominions, or into any the Ports, Hauens, Creekes or Places of any of them, any forreigne Iron wayer, or Cards made of forreigne Iron wayer, or other Manufactures aforesaid, in greater or lesser quantities, made or to be made in any forreigne Part or Place whatsoeuer, or any Wool Cards made within this Kingdome, and which haue once been exported from hence, vpon paine of forfeiture of all and euery quantitie and quantities of the said forreigne Iron wayer, and Cards made of forreigne wayer, and of other the Manufactures made onely of wayer as aforesaid, so brought or caused to bee brought in to Our said Realmes and Dominions, contrarie to this Our Royal Commandement.

And Our Will and pleasure is, that all such forreigne Iron wayer, and Cards made of wayer, and Manufactures of wayer aforesaid, which shall bee imported contrarie to these presents, shall by such person and persons who shall seize the same be forthwith carried and conueyed into Our Custome-house within Our Port of London, and other Custome-houses of that Port where the same shall be seized, without selling, uttering, compounding, or deliuering any part thereof, before the same be thither brought and deliuered as aforesaid, vpon paine of our high Indignation & displeasure, and of such further paines, penalties and punishments as by the Lawes & Statutes of this Our Realme, or Our prerogative Royall for the contempt of Our commandement in this behalfe, can or may any way be inflicted vpon them, or any of them so offending, contrary to the true intent & meaning of these presents: And to that end and purpose, wee doe hereby require and command all and singular the Officers of Our Customs, or attending the same, within all and euery the Ports & Hauens of these Our Realmes and Dominions, and the Creekes and Members of the same Ports, that they and euery of them doe from and after the date hereof at all times forbear to take any entry, or entries, or to take or make any composition or compositions for any Custome, Subsidie, or other Dutie, for, or vpon any forreigne wayer, or Cards made of forreigne wayer, or other the Manufactures made onely of Iron wayer as aforesaid, brought, or to be brought into these Our Realmes or Dominions from any forreigne parts. And also that they, and all, and euery other Our Officers and Ministers doe stay and seize the same, as forfeited and confiscated, to the ble and bles hereafter specified, vpon paine of forfeiture of their Offices, and of vndergoing Our high indignation and displeasure for their neglect herein, with such further paines and punishments as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Our Realme, or by Our prerogative Royall, for the same their contempts and defaults, may any way be inflicted vpon them.

And whereas an vſe oꝝ cuſtome hath lately crept into this Kingdome by ſome ill diſpoſed perſons, moꝛe regarding their owne priuate game and lucre, then the good of the Commonwealth, to buy by old caſt Cards within this Kingdome, and doe ſcowꝛe, tranſlate, and trim by the ſame, and ſell them againe to vnſkilfull countrey people foꝛ new Cards; by meanes whereof the Cloth made of wool carded with ſuch Cards, is falſified to the great loſſe and hinderance of the Clothier, the deceit and prejudice of Our Subiects, who doe buy and weare the ſame, and to the diſcredit of the trade of Clothing, being the chiefeſt and richeſt Commoditie of this Our Kingdome.

Theſe are therefore further to require and command, that no perſon oꝝ perſons doe at any time oꝝ times hereafter attempt oꝝ preſume to Buy, Sell, Barter, Vlent, oꝝ put to Sale within any of Our ſaid Kingdomes, oꝝ Dominions, oꝝ to export into any foꝛreigne parts any old caſt wool-Cards whatſoeuer, vpon paine of forfeiture and conſiſcation thereof, and ſuch other paynes, penalties and puniſhments, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme, oꝝ by Our Prerogatiue Royall can oꝝ may be inflicted vpon them. But that the ſame old Caſt wool-Cards being offered to ſale be ſeized to Our vſe, by any Our Officers oꝝ Subiects, and to bee brought into Our Cuſtome-houſes within Our Port of London, oꝝ other Ports afoꝛeſaid.

And to the end Our intention herein may take the better effect; Our Will and command is, and we doe hereby declare Our pleaſure to be, that ſuch perſon and perſons as ſhall make ſeizure of any of the ſaid foꝛreigne Iron Weyer, oꝝ of any Cards made of foꝛreigne Weyer, oꝝ manufactures made of Iron Weyer only, oꝝ of any old caſt wool-Cards, tranſlated oꝝ trimmed by, and put to ſale as afoꝛeſaid, contrarie to Our Royall commandement herein ſignified, ſhall haue and receiue to his oꝝ their owne vſe and vſes, one moyettie oꝝ halfe part of the ſaid Iron Weyer, oꝝ Cards made of foꝛreigne Weyer, oꝝ old caſt wool-Cards, oꝝ other manufactures made of Weyer onely as afoꝛeſaid, ſo by him oꝝ them ſeized oꝝ to be ſeized, as afoꝛeſaid, the other moyettie thereof to be reſerued to Our vſe.

And foꝛ the better execution of this Our preſent Will and Commandement, wee doe ſtraightly charge and command all Juſtices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Conſtables, Headboroughs, Tithingmen, & all other Our Officers, Miniſters, & louing Subiects, to whom it ſhal oꝝ may appertaine, that they and euery of them, at all time and times hereafter, & from time to time be aiding and aſſiſting to Our ſayd Customers, Collectoꝛs, Searchers, Waiters, and to all other perſon and perſons imploied foꝛ the ſearching in any Ship, Houſe, Ware-houſe oꝝ Celler, and foꝛ ſeizing, taking, and carrying away of all and euery ſuch Iron Weyer, and Cards made of foꝛreigne Weyer, and other manufacture made of Weyer impoꝛted, oꝝ hereafter to bee impoꝛted contrary to this Our Royall prohibition and commandement. And if any ſhall offend herein, oꝝ bee found remiſſe oꝝ negligent in the execution of the premiſſes, and notice thereof be giuen to Our Attourney generall foꝛ the time being, that hee doe proceed againſt all and euery perſon and perſons ſo offending, in Our high Court of Starre-chamber, oꝝ in any other Our Courts of Juſtice, oꝝ otherwiſe, by ſuch wayes and meanes as are by the Lawes, oꝝ Statutes of this Realme pꝛouided againſt ſuch as ſhall offend herein, contrary to the Law, and contrary to Our Royall Commandement.

Giuen at Our Court at White-hall, the ſeuenth day of May, in the ſixt yeere of Our Reigne.

God ſaue the King.

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